AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

(Currently Amended) A process for synthesizing the compound 1,5-Dinosyl-3,3,7,7-tetrakis(difluoramino) octahydro-1,5-diazocine (DNTDFD), comprising the following steps:
reacting tetrahydro-1,5-bis(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-1,5-diazocine-3,7-(2H, 6H) dione
with HNF2/oleum, in the presence of a diluent and absorbent for the reagent difluoramine,
initially approximately between -5 and 0 degrees C; and

allowing the <u>a</u> temperature to rise to between 10 degrees C and ambient temperature during said reaction, to yield crude DNTDFD.

- 2. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the step of said reacting tetrahydro-1,5-bis(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-1,5-diazocine-3,7-(2H, 6H) dione with HNF2/oleum further comprises stirring.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the said diluent and said absorbent is a 2:1 mixture selected from one of FREON ® 11 with pentane or and FREON ® 11 with cyclopentane.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the said diluent and said absorbent is a 2:1 mixture selected from one of pentane of and cyclopentane with FREON® 11.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the said diluent and said absorbent is one of pentane or and cyclopentane.

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6. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising the additional step of cooling the -1,5-bis(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-1,5-diazocine-3,7-(2H, 6H) dione, the HNF2/oleum and the diluent and the absorbent, to a temperature between approximately -5 and 0 degrees C before allowing the temperature to rise.

- 7. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the step of said_reacting tetrahydro-1,5-bis(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-1,5-diazocine-3,7-(2H, 6H) dione with HNF2/oleum, in the presence of a said diluent and said absorbent for the reagent difluoramine, comprises combining said HNF2/oleum and said diluent and said absorbent for a time of approximately one hour before adding the tetrahydro-1,5 bis(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-1,5-diazocine-3,7-(2H,6H) dione.
- 8. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, further comprising the steps of cooling said crude DNTDFD solution, adding it to crushed ice, filtering, adding a triturating solution, filtering and drying.
- 9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 8, wherein the triturating solution is aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate.
- 10. (Currently Amended) A process for synthesizing the compound 1,5-Dinosyl-3,3,7,7-tetrakis(difluoramino) octahydro-1,5-diazocine (DNTDFD), comprising the following steps:

 reacting tetrahydro-1,5-bis(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-1,5-diazocine-3,7-(2H, 6H) dione

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with HNF2/oleum initially approximately between -5 and 0 degrees C; : and

allowing the <u>a</u> temperature to rise to between 10 degrees C and ambient temperature during said reaction to yield crude DNTDFD.

- 11. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 10, wherein the step of said reacting tetrahydro-1,5-bis(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-1,5-diazocine-3,7-(2H, 6H) dione with HNF2/oleum further comprises stirring.
- 12. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 11, further comprising the step of adding a diluent and an absorbent comprising at least one of pentane, FREON® 11, or and pentane and FREON® 11.
- 13. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 42 11, further comprising adding a diluent and an absorbent comprising at least one of pentane, FREON® 11, and pentane and FREON® 11; and

cooling the tetrahydro-1,5-bis(4-nitrobenzenesulfonyl)-1,5-diazocine-3,7-(2H, 6H) dione with HNF2/oleum to a temperature between approximately -5 and 0 degrees C, before allowing the temperature to rise.

14. (Currently Amended) A process for synthesizing the compound 1,5-Dinosyl-3,3,7,7-tetrakis(difluoramino) octahydro-1,5-diazocine (DNTDFD), comprising the following steps:

reacting tetrahydro1,5-Dinosyl-perhydrodiazocine-3,7-dione with HNF2/oleum, in the presence of a diluent and absorbent for the reagent difluoramine, initially approximately between -5 and 0 degrees C; and

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allowing the <u>a</u> temperature to rise to between 10 degrees C and 15 degrees C during said reaction, to yield crude DNTDFD.

15. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 14, further comprising the step of adding a said diluent and said absorbent comprising at least one of pentane, FREON® 11, or and pentane and FREON® 11.